

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter in claim 22.

Claim 16 is amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 22. Claim 22 is canceled.

The abstract is amended in accordance with MPEP §608.01(b) as requested by the Examiner.

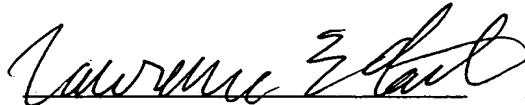
The incorporation of allowable subject matter into claim 16 renders moot the rejection of claims 16-21 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Yamakado et al. (US Patent Number 5,992,391) in view of Suzuki et al. (US Patent Number 6,130,279), and the rejection of claims 16-21 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Yamakado et al. (DE 198 28 672) in view of Suzuki et al. (WO98/16585). Reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are requested.

In light of the foregoing amendment, this application should be in condition for allowance, and early passage of this case to issue is respectfully requested. If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #056208.49740).

July 21, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey D. Sanok", written over a horizontal line.

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